

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/992,869

Applicant(s)

SAITOU ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Negussie Worku

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/22/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.


THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

Negussie Worku
01/05/07


AUNG MOE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Reason for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In response to the Office action dated August 25, 2006, and further to the amendments filed on November 2, 2006, applicant's request in view of the amendments/remarks have been reviewed and respectfully considered.

In the last Office action claims 1 through 11 have been rejected, and claims 12 through 30 have been objected to as having allowable subject matter. Applicant's arguments in view of the amended independent claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 are believe to be persuasive and are allowed for the reasons stated below.

With respect to claim 1, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests the claimed invention as amended. Specifically, Vosper et al. do not teach or disclose wherein the area light source includes features, which scatter light from the LED device to provide substantially uniform illumination by each of the red, green, and blue- LED chips over an area that includes at least one frame of the light-transmission original, as amended in claim 1.

Voser et al., instead, illuminate a portion of the document (strip, of banknote 2), even if an area of the banknote is illuminated, the light is not transmitted through the bank note nor is an area that includes the entire banknote illuminated substantially uniformly over an area that includes at least one light transmission original.

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Furthermore, although Voser et al. discloses that the source arrays include red, green and blue LEDs (Column 5, lines 43-67), Voser et al. do not disclose or suggest that red, green and blue LEDs are activated sequentially.

Nagata et al. (A secondary reference), further do not disclose or suggest that an area light source provides substantially uniform illumination over an area that includes at least one frame of the light transmission original, as recited by claim 1. Nagata et al., instead, illuminate only a portion of a light-reflecting original which is sensed by a linear image sensor.

Therefore, claim 1 is Allowed, because Voser et al. and Nagata et al. either alone or in combination do not disclose all of the features of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voser et al. in view of Nagata et al.

As per independent claims 2, 7 and 8, although not identical to claim 1, include features similar to claim 1, that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art. Namely, an area light source for radiating light to a light-transmission original where the area light source includes features which scatter light from the LED device to provide substantially uniform illumination by each of the red-, green-, and blue- LED chips over an area that includes at least one frame of the light-transmission original.

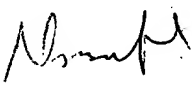
As discussed above, Voser et al. and Nagata et al., either alone or in combination, do not disclose these features. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and all dependent claims, which depend there from are also allowed.


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2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 571-272-7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moë can be reached on 571-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Negussie Worku
01/05/07


AUNG MOE
PRIMARY EXAMINER